

**GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

September 22, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

As governor, I've traveled to every region of our state and met thousands of families and workers. And no matter their background or where they live, Michigan workers have one thing in common – we have a great work ethic.

And Michigan's hard working citizens have a governor and a government that respects that work and protects it.

Earlier this month, my administration took a number of steps to protect your pocketbooks.

We announced a new pilot project to make home and auto insurance available to residents in Metro Detroit and Genesee County at lower rates. Because insurance rates should be determined by how you drive, and not where you live.

And last week, I sent a letter to the White House urging President Bush to reconsider his recent decision to exclude Michigan from receiving additional funding for home heating assistance this winter.

This past year, more than 470,000 Michigan families relied on the state's home heating assistance programs to stay warm and natural gas costs continue to rise.

I will not sit quietly while states like Virginia and North Carolina, where climates are more moderate, get an additional amount of funding while the families in Michigan are left out in the cold.

And in my effort to fight for every day citizens, I am also proud to sign legislation creating an Earned Income Tax Credit for workers in Michigan.

Like the federal credit, Michigan's new tax credit will help the working poor keep more of what they earn.

More than 660,000 Michigan families, earning below \$35,000 each year, already qualify for a federal tax credit worth up to \$4,700, depending on the size of their family.

Now, thanks to the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit, Michigan's lowest wage earners will have up to \$880 more in their pocket. And it's about time.

That's \$880 to help pay for education, health care, insurance, home heating costs, gas or whatever else they need.

Reducing the cost of insurance ... fighting for our fair share of federal assistance for home heating ... creating a tax credit to help working people ... it's all a part of my plan to help families work and thrive here in Michigan, especially during times of economic challenge.

Thank you for listening.